

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge that Claims 18 and 19 of the present Application are now in condition for allowance. Applicants further gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner has stated that claims 8-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response to the Action and the Examiner's comments therein, claim 8 has now been amended to incorporate base claim 1 and the limitations of intervening claims 6 and 7. Claims 9-12 are dependent on amended claim 8 and therefore also incorporate the base claim and intervening claims thereof. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 13-15 and 17 are herewith canceled without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents.

No new matter is added.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims herewith and as previously pending are and were patentably distinct from the references cited by the Examiner, and that these claims are and were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.


Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments made herein are not an admission or acquiescence to the allegations of the Office Action. Rather, Applicants have amended the claims to recite only the subject matter indicated by the Office Action as allowable to facilitate allowance of such claims. Applicants reserve their right to further prosecute the remaining subject matter in a divisional application.

In summary, it is submitted that Applicants' claims presently in the Application are patentable over the prior art of record, and that the present Application is in condition for allowance and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at his convenience, should any issues remain after consideration of the present Amendment, to permit early resolution of same.

If any extension of time is required to obtain entry of this Amendment, the undersigned hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant any necessary time extension.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judy C. Jarecki-Black', written over a horizontal line.

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Date: October 5, 2005

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